

REMARKS

Claims 10, 13, 15, 17-20 and 25-37 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 10, 13, 17 and 25-28 are independent. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 and 31 are allowed.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101; rejected claims 13, 15-18 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (USP 6,784,917) in view of Swift (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0122585); and rejected claims 19-20, 30 and 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Swift and further in view of Iizuka (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0054207).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claim 16 asserting the claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Based on this cancellation, Applicants respectfully request the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections

On or about July 8, 2008, Applicants' representative had a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss amendments to the claims that would place the application in proper form for allowance. As the Applicants were unavailable to consider the proposed amendments, Applicants' representative requested a formal action on the merits.

After considering the Examiner's proposed amendments to the claims discussed on or about July 8, 2008, Applicants have amended the claims herein as proposed by the Examiner.

Specifically, as suggested by the Examiner, independent claims 13, 17 and 25-28 have been amended to recite "wherein the joining method represents an arrangement position of the image data that should be joined and an inversion direction of the image data that should be joined." As agreed between the parties, the cited art fails to teach or suggest this claim element.

Applicants respectfully submit that these claim amendments place the application in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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